



U.S. Department of Justice

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14 ROCKFORD, CHICAGO AND STERLING MEN CHARGED WITH FEDERAL CONSPIRACY AND COCAINE DISTRIBUTION OFFENSES - ELEVEN IN CUSTODY - THREE AT LARGE

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; RICHARD W. SANDERS, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration; RICHARD MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; DUANE WIRTH, Boone County Sheriff; ROGER A. SCHIPPER, Whiteside County Sheriff; STEVEN PUGH, Rockford Police Chief; JAN NOBLE, Belvidere Police Chief; and RON POTTHOFF, Sterling Police Chief, today made the following announcement:

Eleven Rockford, Chicago and Sterling men are currently in custody on federal conspiracy and cocaine distribution charges. Arrested today were: **GONZALO TORRES-HERNANDEZ**, also known as "Yuca" (hereinafter "Torres"), **JAIME GONZALEZ**, **CELSO ARJON-ALEMAN**, also known as "Nanga" (hereinafter "Arjon"), **MIGUEL SOSA**, **ALBERTO DE LA TORRE**, also known as "Beto," **CARLOS RUBALCABA**, **CHRISTOPHER DEHMER**, and **LEIF TONY LINDSKOG**, also known as "L.T.," also known as "Tony."

Already in custody were: **CARLOS PELAYO-GUZMAN** (hereinafter "Pelayo"), and **ALLAN R. GUZMAN**, also known as "Nephew" (hereinafter "Guzman").

Still at large are: **MARTIN MACIAS**, also known as "Rosendo Macias," also known as "Chendo," **PASCUAL HERRERA**, also known as "Negro," and **NICHOLAS DEMBICKY**. Any members of the public with information on any of these three individuals are asked to contact the local DEA office or local law enforcement.

According to the criminal complaint unsealed today in Rockford federal court, Torres and Macias, along with their associates Gonzalez, Arjon, and Herrera, distributed cocaine in quarter kilogram, half-kilogram, and kilogram quantities to several lower level distributors. The complaint further alleged that Torres and Macias received their cocaine in kilogram and multi-kilogram amounts from individuals located in the Rockford area, as well as from individuals in the Chicago area, including Pelayo from Melrose Park, Illinois. According to the complaint, the lower level drug dealers that Torres and Macias supplied cocaine to included Sosa, De La Torre, Guzman, Rubalcaba, Dehmer, Dembicky, and Lindskog. The complaint further alleges that these dealers in turn supplied cocaine to their customers.

If convicted of the charges, each defendant faces a maximum potential sentence of life imprisonment and a \$4,000,000 fine.

Also, in a related case, **CRISOFORO SOSA** was arrested and charged today with possessing with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine. If convicted of that charge, Crisoforo Sosa faces a maximum possible penalty of 40 years imprisonment, and a \$2,000,000 fine.

The actual sentence for each defendant will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

All of the men arrested today appeared in federal court in Rockford before United States Magistrate Judge P. Michael Mahoney for their initial appearance on the complaint. Bail hearings have been set for next Monday and Tuesday, December 27th and 28th, 2004. All of the defendants arrested today will be held in federal custody until their bail hearings. Arjon appeared today in federal court in the Eastern District of Texas and is also being held without bond pending a bail hearing.

Members of the public are reminded that a criminal complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Each defendant is entitled to indictment by a federal grand jury and a fair trial at which time the government has the burden of proving each defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The arrests announced today were the result of an eleven month multi-agency, undercover investigation led by officers of the Rockford DEA Task Force, the Metro Narcotics Unit, which is a task force comprised of members of the Rockford Police Department and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, and the Blackhawk Area Task Force, which is a task force comprised of members of the Illinois State Police, the Whiteside County Sheriff's Department, the Sterling Police Department, the Kewanee Police Department, and the Clinton, Iowa Police Department.

These cases are being prosecuted in United States District Court by Assistant United States Attorney Michael F. Iasparro.

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